

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
63/62

USGS Quad
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number
1033

Massachusetts Historical Commission



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village) Upper Meriam Hill

Address 6 Berwick Road

Historic Name Herbert & Grace Russell House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1912

Source Lexington Valuation Lists

Style/Form Craftsman

Architect/Builder Willard Brown?

Exterior Material:

Foundation rubble

Wall/Trim stucco/wood

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 16,550 SF

Setting early 20th century residential neighborhood



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 2000

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

BUILDING FORM (6 Berwick Road)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Fronted by a circular driveway, 6 Berwick Road is an eclectic early 20th century, stuccoed dwelling which rests on a rubble foundation. The main block of the house is a two-story hip-roofed mass. The east half of the ivy-covered facade is fronted by an asymmetrical gable projection with the longer slope enclosing the entrance porch. Underneath the overhang, the main entrance contains a three-panel divided door which is flanked by a side bench with jigsawn balusters. The gable end pent is supported by stuccoed posts. The window openings include a predominance of 6/1 sash which are used individually, in pairs and in sets of three in varying sizes. A wood-shingled shed dormer rises from the west roof slope. A single-story, shed-roofed sunporch with glazed sliders alternating with wooden arbors spans the west end of the house. A large letter "R" (the initial of the original owners, the Russells) is mounted on the second floor of the west elevation above the sunporch.

The eclectic nature of the house suggests it may have been designed by architect Willard Brown.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The house at 6 Berwick Road was built in 1912 for Herbert P. and Grace Russell of Cambridge. Russell was assessed in 1912 for just the lot (Lot 56 in the Oakmount Park subdivision), but in 1913 he was also assessed for a house, indicating it had been built the previous year. In 1923 the house was valued at \$7,500. Directories indicate that Herbert Russell rose in the ranks of a local bank from bookkeeper to department manager to the Trust Department. Herbert Russell continued to live in the house until 1965 when it was sold to Roger and Marjorie Downey.

A letter in the possession of local architectural historian Anne Grady from the daughter of architect Willard Brown, Sarah Emily Brown Schoenhut, suggests that this house may have been designed by Willard Brown. (see 20 Meriam St., MHC #382)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lexington Assessors Records.

Lexington Directories, various dates.

Lexington Valuation Lists, various dates.

Schoenhut, Sarah Emily Brown to Anne A. Grady. Correspondence in possession of Anne A. Grady, Lexington, Mass. (Schoenhut letter #4).

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*